

NUMBER

129

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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

TOO MUCH BATTLE FOR THREE ISSUES!

ALIENS
VS.
PREDATOR

From

COBBLESTONE BOOKS

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A Comics Specialty Outlet

Aliens vs. Predator: Too Much Battle For Three Issues

Looks like either the Aliens or the Predators misjudged their enemies: the previously-scheduled three-issue series *Aliens Vs. Predator* has expanded to a four-issue series according to the folks at Dark Horse.

The new larger-than-ever series will feature humans, Aliens, and Predators on an outpost world where it looks like the humans might die in a battle in which they're not even taking part! Ironically, one of the alien races finds it necessary to call on human help to defeat their opposition. So which race is it? We're not telling—but you can find out in early February when *Aliens Vs. Predator #3* reaches your comic shop, courtesy of Randy Stradley, Phil Norwood, and Carl Story.

by WAYNE LEE

Fire and Water: A Perfect Mix for Marvel

Over fifty years ago, Marvel secured its place in comics history with the publication of *Marvel Comics* (later to become *Marvel Mystery Comics*) #1, featuring two of the most popular Marvel heroes, Bill Everett's Sub-Mariner and Carl Burgos' Human Torch. The Sub-Mariner, an aquatic hero who is quite familiar to modern Marvel fans as well as Golden-Age collectors, seemed an almost-natural nemesis for the fiery Human Torch; in fact, the two were to face off against one another not too much later.

It was only natural that when Marvel initiated its superhero line in the early 1960's, the company would bring back these heroes in one form or another. The Human Torch of the Silver Age wasn't the same Human Torch as fans were familiar with—but the Sub-Mariner, who returned in *Fantastic Four #4*, was. A few years later, the original Human Torch returned, appropriately enough, in a *Fantastic Four Annual*.

Now it's over fifty years later—but if you take a look at Marvel's schedule for early 1990, you might have a momentary flash of nostalgia. In February 1990, Marvel will return to its elements, so to speak, with the release of a pair of first issues featuring the Sub-Mariner and the original Human Torch.



Namor The Sub-Mariner #1 by John Byrne and Bob Wiacek "re-introduces the Sub-Mariner and establishes a new Coast.

life for him as one of Earth's wealthiest men, living above water and going to any lengths necessary to protect the environment," according to Kurt Busiek of Marvel. In the new series, the Sub-Mariner will use the wealth of the seas to wage war in defense of the environment—but it's a financial war, played by surface-dwellers' rules. *Namor the Sub-Mariner #1*, a standard \$1 comic book, will premiere on February 8th.

A week later, Marvel debuts its four-issue limited series *Saga of the Original Human Torch*. The original Human Torch is a familiar figure to readers of *Avengers West Coast*, but many fans who have enjoyed his exploits in that book aren't familiar with the character's half-century history. Roy Thomas, Rich Buckler, and Danny Bulanadi will present the fiery android's origin and history in four \$1.50 books, much as they did with the *Sub-Mariner* last year (but the *Human Torch* series will be much more concise). The first issue of *Saga of the Human Torch* will cover the hero's 1940's career.

Namor the Sub-Mariner is an ongoing series; *The Saga of the Original Human Torch* is a limited series, although the character will continue to appear on a regular basis as a member of *Avengers West*

by KIM B. PEARSON

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Starlin and Graziunas Create Among Madmen



CSN first told readers about Jim Starlin's and Daina Graziunas' novel *Among Madmen* early this year. Now we can report that the book has found a publisher and will be released in late March; furthermore, it should be available in comic shops everywhere.

Among Madmen, an illustrated novel written by Starlin and Graziunas and profusely illustrated by Starlin himself, is set to be published by New American Library under its new ROC science fiction imprint. Marvel Comics, for whom Starlin writes *Silver Surfer* and the upcoming *Thanos* limited series, will distribute *Among Madmen* to comic shops.

"*Among Madmen* is the story of Tom Laker, the constable of a small Catskill Mountains village," Starlin said. "This lawman has two major headaches. Problem #1: Anarchy rules. Half the world has gone insane. They've either become bumbling catatonics-vegies—or homicidal maniacs-berserkers. Problem #2: Tom's lovely and loving wife, Maria, is a berserker. *Among Madmen* is a love story set in a nightmare future."

Among Madmen will feature fifty in-

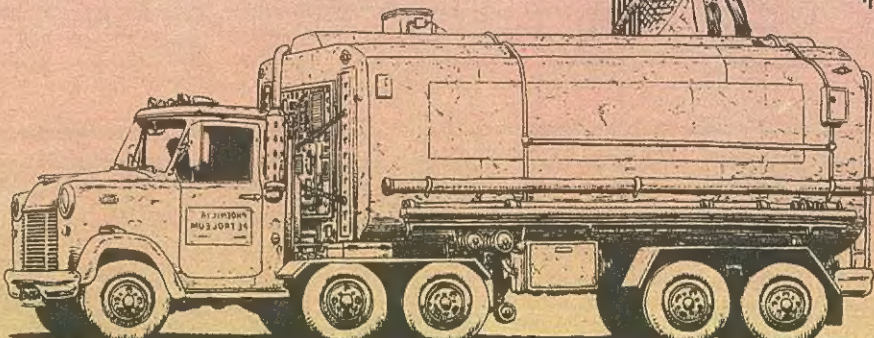
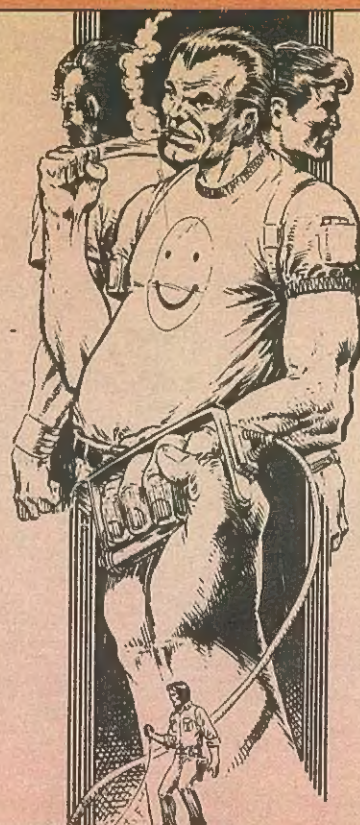
terior pen-and-ink illustrations and a painted cover by Starlin. According to Starlin, these are the first for-print drawings he has done in over a year (the work currently appearing in *Pawns*, the novel serialized in *First Comics' Dreadstar*, was produced last year).

Advance response to *Among Madmen* has been very favorable. Stephen King said, "*Among Madmen* is exciting, compulsive reading. I spent two wonderful winter afternoons with it, but you don't have to wait for winter; read it as soon as your little claws fall on it..."

John Byrne, comics writer and artist who had a horror novel published last year, said, "They say the kindest thing you can do for a paranoid is call him up in the middle of the night and whisper, 'I'm going to get you.' Jim and Daina do it to the world."

Starlin and Graziunas are almost finished with their next novel, *Lady El*; they are also working on a collected revamped edition of *Pawns*, the novel serialized in *Dreadstar*.

by WAYNE LEE



NEWS BRIEFS

MARVEL FLAGS CAP FOR BISQUE

Marvel's *Wolverine ceramic bisque*, released just prior to Thanksgiving, has proven to be quite a success indeed; for less than a third of the price of Franklin Mint ceramic figures, Marvel has produced a hand-painted limited edition ceramic figurine sure to increase in value.

In June, Marvel will release their second limited edition bisque, this one featuring Captain America. The *Captain America bisque* features everyone's favorite patriotic hero, shield held high in one hand and flag held in the other, standing on a star-shaped base. Once again, the figure will come with a solid cherry wood base and will be finished with a handsome brass nameplate.



Marvel can't say just how large the production run on the bisques will be, but they guarantee it will be no more than 15,000 figures. After the initial run is produced, the mold is broken and no more copies will ever be made, making this a great collectible sure to escalate in value. As with all collectibles of this sort, *CSN* recommends that you let your local comic shop know as soon as possible that your collection won't be complete without one of these figures.

THE ADVENTURES OF LOBO

Lobo certainly gets around, doesn't he? One of the members of LEGION '90, Lobo will be guest-starring in a few other books in January. First, you can look for him in *Mister Miracle #13*, on sale January 23rd. In that issue, Lobo and his prized dolphins have a run-in with Mister Miracle's 1990 Universal Tour, on its busy way through the galaxies. Len Wein and Joe Phillips present



the results—and they throw in Manga Khan and L-Ron at no extra charge.

That same week, Lobo—who's a wee tad drunk—accepts a space barroom challenge to kick Superman's butt. This is a story too big to be told in a single issue—which is why it begins in *Superman #41*, courtesy of Jerry Ordway and Dennis Janke, and ends in *Adventures of Superman #464*, brought to you a week later by Dan Jurgens and Art Thibert.

ROY ROGERS QUICK ON THE TRIGGER AT AC

It's been quite a while since Roy Rogers and Trigger galloped through the comics racks. AC has decided that it's time for Roy to saddle up his trusty steed once again for a new generation of fans, though; that's why they've added *Roy Rogers Western Classics* to their January 1990 line-up.

Roy Rogers Western Classics will present two Roy Rogers action adventures from the 1950s in full color. Both "Tornado Weather" and "Snow on the Warfield Trail" are illustrated by top Marvel talent John Buscema. In addition, comics great Russ Manning will be represented in "The Voice of the Eagle," a Dale Evans adventure. Rounding out the book is a Gabby Hayes solo tale, "The Singing Gunmen," illustrated by Leonard Frank. The covers will feature photos of Roy Rogers. *Roy Rogers Western Classics* is a fully-authorized, licensed release. The comic will be priced at \$2.95; if reader response is strong enough, more issues will follow.

THE FORMING LEGION

The Legion of Super-Heroes haven't even formed a full team yet, and they're already facing one of their most diabolical adversaries, Mordru the Merciless. Mordru returns in *Legion of Super-Heroes #6*, courtesy of Keith Giffen, Tom and Mary Bierbaum, and Al Gordon. Three more Legionnaires are introduced in this issue—but will there be a Legion for them to join? Find out on February 15th.

NBM HELPS JOCKEY CHEVAL NOIR

Since every mention of *Cheval Noir* stresses the book's publisher, Dark Horse, many fans have overlooked the fact that NBM, one of the leading American publishers of European comics, is also closely involved with this monthly anthology title. Many of the major attractions found in the pages of *Cheval Noir* are arranged for pre-serialization by NBM's publisher Terry Nantier in conjunction with Mike Richardson of Dark Horse.

"I'm very proud to be working with Dark Horse and Mike, whose feel for what's going to make it has been amazing. This venture will give us the opportunity to bring the fun of European comics to a wider audience than ever before. It'll get a lot of people looking at a wider range of comics, including our graphic novels," Nantier said. NBM will be publishing the full-color graphic novels about six months after the pre-serialization is completed in *Cheval Noir*. Among artists whose work will be offered in color graphic novels from NBM are Drulillet, Tardi, and Schuiten.

OPEN SEASON OPENS SEASON IN SAN FRANCISCO

Open Season, a two-act dramatic comedy based on the comic book by Jim Bricker, had a successful run in November at the American Zephyr Theater. Nineteen performances were held between November 2nd and November 2nd. The adaptation was done by Magic Lightning Productions and Jim Bricker himself.

"Staging *Open Season* is exciting both artistically and historically," said Dan Fogel, producing director of Open Season. "This is the first straight adaptation of a comic book to the stage in the United States. No singing, no dancing, no camp. We believe that what Jim's already established in the comic can be adapted directly for the stage, and that our audience is intelligent enough to appreciate it."

ANIMALS AREN'T A PET PROJECT FOR CETA

New Comics Group has joined forces with the very best of the comic book industry, newspaper comic strip creators, and other illustrators to form CETA—Creators for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. The group plans to produce a benefit book, with all proceeds going to help PETA—People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—put a non-violent stop to the inhumane treatment of animals by testing labs and shelters.

"Response from the comics industry in particular has been astounding!" Fred Schiller, associate editor of the benefit book, said. "Nearly everyone we've contacted has pledged their support, and then they're calling friends and getting them involved." Schiller also said that many British artists and writers have become involved since New's editor Valerie Jones travelled to England for UKCon. "The British are very aware of the good that PETA is doing, and they've been waiting for something like CETA to come along so they can do something to make a difference." At the same time the benefit book is released, Graphitti Designs will issue a line of t-shirts featuring some of the more stunning pieces done for the project. All profits from the sale of the shirts will be donated to PETA.

CRY FOR DAWN SEES LIGHT OF DAY

1989 has been quite a year for horror in comics; both large and small publishers have discovered the enormous market out there for well-crafted, well-illustrated stories of the macabre and the mystical. The latest publisher to move into the horror field is Cry For Dawn Productions, whose horror book is (appropriately enough) *Cry For Dawn*. The first issue is set to debut in December, featuring 40 pages of black and white interior artwork and a full-color cover painting. Subsequent issues of *Cry For Dawn* will contain only 32 interior pages in the same format.

Cry For Dawn #1 will feature an introduction by Stephen R. Bissette, publisher of *Taboo*, along with four horror stories written by Joseph Linsner and Joseph Monks and illustrated by Linsner. "While no one common thread ties the four stories together, both traditional and unconventional themes of the genre are portrayed," Linsner said.

"Rainstorms and Maniacs" explores the world of the archetypal slasher-killer; "Tokers" is the surreal story of a young suburbanite lured into a very peculiar adults-only shop; "Bring Me A Dream" details a man's efforts to escape his ties to his supernatural ex; and "Kid's Meal" presents a strange confrontation between an inhabitant of the slums and a Supreme Court justice over the issue of abortion. *Cry For Dawn* will appear on a quarterly basis; the cover price is \$2.25.



POSTERS FAIR GAME

Excalibur Distributors has discovered that the world of gaming has some pretty impressive artwork that can easily be transformed into quality posters. That's just what they're doing in December, when they'll be offering two posters taken from the cover art for their Chaosium games and one from a Steve Jackson game. *The Great Old Ones* by Tom Sullivan and *Masks of Nyarlathotep* by Lee Gibbons are the two Lovecraft-related posters from Chaosium; *Car Wars* features John Dismukes' art for the *Car Wars* Compendium. Also featured in December is the *Flare* cover by Mark Beachum. All four posters are 20" x 28", full color reproductions, perfect for wall display, and carry a \$5.95 pricetag.

COMIC SHOP
NEWS

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NEWS BRIEFS

DARK HORSE SET TO FLOAT ARKWRIGHT IN FEBRUARY

The *Adventures of Luther Arkwright*, the Eagle-Award-winning series by Bryan Talbot, is coming to America in a series of new, re-lettered, re-formatted comics from Dark Horse—but that's old news, since CSN broke that story to you months ago. Now we can tell you when you can expect to see this stunning book that *Moebius* describes as "...a perfect example, not of adult comics but of comics becoming adult, that is of comics coming of age." Dark Horse has *The Adventures of Luther Arkwright #1* set to ship in mid-February; the book will contain 32 black and white pages inside a full-color cover feature new painted art by Talbot. Each issue will be priced at \$1.95.

SPIDER-MAN GETS INTO THE SPIRIT

Spider-Man fans will have a great summer in 1990. If everything goes according to plan, they'll not only get the already-scheduled fourth Spider-Man title written and illustrated by *Todd McFarlane*, but they'll also get an original hardcover graphic novel written and illustrated by *Charles Vess*. Vess's Spidey graphic novel is entitled *Spider-Man: Spirits of the Earth*; *Phillip Fournier* of Diamond Distributors reports that "the story centers around Peter and Mary Jane traveling to Scotland for their honeymoon because Mary Jane had inherited land there. They find others are also interested in the land including ghosts, ghouls, and the UK branch of the Hellfire Club." Everyone who has seen pages from the book has nothing but raves about the lavish fully painted artwork; if you don't remember what Vess' Spider-Man looks like, check out the signed lithographs he's done in the past, or his stunning cover for *Web of Spider-Man #1*. As soon as *Spirits of the Earth* is scheduled for release, CSN will let you know.

PIRANHA EXPECTING INVADERS FROM HOME

Becoming a first-time parent at the age of forty can be pretty nerve-wracking for anyone. For Bobby Boomer, though, it's positively mind-shattering; rather than facing the truth, Bobby begins to hallucinate that aliens have impregnated his wife by shoving a banana in her ear and that the offspring will be a creature with five eyes and no toes. Even after the birth of a perfectly normal daughter, Bobby isn't convinced that he's wrong. After all, nothing human could do all the things that this baby does, right?...

Invaders From Home is a six-issue full-color limited series that should appeal to every parent or sibling who's had to deal with a newborn in the family. Oh, yes; there really are space aliens in this story.

Invaders from Home is written and illustrated by *John Blair Moore*; this will be his first published work. *Invaders From Home* is set to debut in the summer of 1990.



GOING OVER LIKE A LED ZEPPELIN...

Zeppelins are a transportation phenomenon of the 1920's and 1930's; after the crash of the *Hindenberg*, the zeppelin lost popularity and was abandoned as a means of transportation. So why is a zeppelin a major element of *Doc Savage 19*? Because this issue is set in the 1930's, that's why! By popular demand, DC is presenting an all-new *Doc Savage* story set in the 1930's era of the original *Doc Savage* adventures. In this story, someone is out to destroy Germany's greatest zeppelin en route to America...and if they succeed, it may spark a world war. *Mike Barr* and *Rod Whigham* explore the possibilities on February 15th.

DOUBLE DUTY FOR DAREDEVIL IN 1990

Frank Miller's *Elektra Hardcover Graphic Novel*, initially scheduled for this past summer and then postponed, is now scheduled for 1990, according to *Phillip Fournier* of Diamond Distributors. The book is entirely written, pencilled, and inked (all by Frank Miller); *Lynn Varley* is putting the finishing touches on the colors for this massive original graphic novel. Of course, *Daredevil* will play a part in this graphic novel.

Frank Miller will also be busy with a second *Daredevil* project in 1990; Fournier says that Marvel has confirmed the scheduling of his long-rumored *Daredevil* hardcover graphic novel that focuses on the hero's origin and early days. *Daredevil* will be written by Miller, pencilled by *John Romita Jr.*, and inked by *Al Williamson*. Fournier reports that this story will combine "all previous elements into the definitive *Daredevil* history. Featuring *Battling Murdock*, *Stick*, *Foggy*, *Elektra*, and others, Frank Miller will take us deep into *Daredevil*'s psyche to unravel the complex psychology of this truly Christian vigilante."



THE BIG FIXITT

Mr. Fixitt, *Craig Boldman* and *Howard Bender*'s science-fiction adventure series, debuted last year—and hasn't appeared since then! That's a shame, since the story's clever concept attracted a fair number of fans for the book. You see, in *Mr. Fixitt*'s world, time has been goofed up. Since the Big Snafu, people can travel from one time period to another as easily as going from one town to the next. Every era exists adjacent to one another—giving all-new meanings to the phrase "time zone"! Even stranger, geography is equally confused, with the Soviet Union now occupied by people who all claim to come from Vermont! So where did the Soviets go? To Mars!

Apple Comics published the first issue of *Mr. Fixitt*, and they'll be releasing the second issue in December; after that, though, *Mr. Fixitt*'s future is about as unclear as the future time of the world in which he lives. "We're looking for a new publisher," *Howard Bender* said. "We're up for grabs."

Since *Mr. Fixitt #2* is Apple's last issue, *Bender* decided the book should go out with a bang. "It's an all-star jam," *Bender* said. "I did the pencils and various talented artist who heard of our plight and liked *Mr. Fixitt* chipped in and lent a hand." Those guest artists include some major names in comics, such as:

Kurt Schaffenberger. "This is one of the first things he's inked outside of DC comics in over a decade," *Bender* said.

Scott Saavedra. "He's the cult genius behind *It's Science With Dr. Radi-um*."

Neil Vokes. "He does *Eagle* and *Blood of Dracula* for Apple."

Howard Simpson. "He's mainly known for pencils. He worked for DC on *Young All-Stars*."

Brian Buniak. "He's done work for *Mad* and did *Thunderbunny* for Apple."

Sal Trapani. "He and I were matched up on *Robotech Macross Saga* for Comico. He also worked for Marvel and DC during the 70's."

Bender stresses that the departure of *Mr. Fixitt* from Apple Comics was totally amicable. "We like Apple, but it didn't seem to work out. We're going to have to pitch it to other companies. It's like we're saying, 'Hey, we're open to a new publisher if anyone's interested.' After that, *Mr. Fixitt* is completely in the hands of the fans."

CALIBER TAKES A LITTLE BIT LONGER TO ENTER THE PAPERBACK REALM

Caliber Press' previously announced trade paperback of *The Realm*, originally announced for late 1989 release, hasn't been forgotten. The folks at Caliber assure us that the books are indeed on their way, but production complexities have forced their delay until early 1990. *The Realm Book One*, reprinting the first four issues, will be released in trade paperback in January. *The Realm Book Two*, reprinting issues five through eight, will appear in March. Both books will feature all-new covers.

MS. VICTORY IS TRULY RAD

How can the Femforce team defeat Rad? They can't let her terrorize the nation—but at the same time, they're aware that Rad is in reality their companion *Ms. Victory*. Unfortunately for them, the government has ordered that Rad be stopped using any means necessary—even if it results in her death. To prevent Rad's slaughter, Femforce calls on the Sentinels of Justice in *Femforce #23*. The two groups work together to subdue Rad and force her offer the personality-altering drug V-45—but will even their combined abilities be enough to do the job? Find out in January, when *Femforce #23* goes on sale.

COMICS INTERVIEW INVESTIGATES THE SPIDER & THE BAT

In January, *Comics Interview* takes a look at two of the most popular characters in comics today: Batman and Spider-Man. *Comics Interview #80* will feature an interview with *Legends of the Dark Knight's Ed Hannigan*; *Comics Interview #81* will feature an interview with *Todd McFarlane*, complete with a new McFarlane cover. Each issue will be priced at \$3.95; look for 'em in early 1990.

THE ELMORE, THE MERRIER!

Gaming-related posters seem to be increasing in popularity, so it's only natural that the art of one of the most popular of all gaming artists, *Larry Elmore*, would be featured on a series of posters. *Saber Graphics* is offering high-quality posters of some of Elmore's paintings; the series leads off with *Challenge for the gateway*, a fantasy poster priced at \$7, and continues with *Shadowrun*, featuring the art for the popular FASA game. Future Elmore posters are forthcoming in 1990.



CSN HOT PICKS!

DECEMBER HOT PICKS!

by Cliff Biggers

The Agent

For over two decades now, Marvel's primary government agent has been Nick Fury; with the changes that have taken place in SHIELD over the past few years, though, there's room in the Marvel Universe for a new agent. Enter Rick Mason, a freelance intelligence operative brought in by Nick Fury himself. **The Agent** is sure to be hot; after all, it introduces a new character who will be established very firmly in the Marvel Universe. In this 80-page adventure, he faces a group of drug-running super-villains; Marvel arch-villain the Kingpin even makes an appearance! (Marvel, \$9.95)

Aliens Vs. Predator 1

The reasons why this is a hot pick are pretty obvious, aren't they? **Aliens** was the hottest selling independent title published in 1988; **Predator**'s first issue set sales records this summer. Put the two of them together in a new story by Randy Stradley and Phillip Norwood and you get a sizzler of a story. Look for this one to outsell both **Aliens** and **Predator**! (Dark Horse, \$2.50)

Aliens Collection

If Dark Horse published only one trade paperback, this should be it. A trade paperback reprinting all six issues of **Aliens** as well as the original frontispiece done by artist Mark Nelson for the various editions of the book is destined to be a perennially popular title. Don't be surprised if Dark Horse has to do another printing of this one in two or three months. (Dark Horse, \$11.95)



Amazing Spider-Man 329

We all knew the Super-Spidey Saga would be a hit with fans, but did anyone expect this level of positive reaction?! Everyone's looking for the latest installment of this storyline, which ends here. Loki, a Sentinel, X-Men villain Sebastian Shaw, and new regular artist Erik Larson—but 'em together and you get a sellout! (Marvel, \$1)

Baoh 1

Hirohiko Araki's **Baoh** sounds like a science-fiction-suspense film in comics form: a sinister organization that uses people for its own purposes, a psychic girl escapee, and a teenage boy who carries a biological organism that can transform him into a monstrous destructive force. This kick-off issue of the eight-issue mini-series should have strong appeal to manga-fans and general comics readers alike. (Viz, \$2.95)

Bat 1

Apple is doing their part to make 1989 the year of **The Bat**—and we're not referring to that Gotham City guy here. Apple Comics' **Bat** is a 1930's pulp hero who possesses the power of Dracula—and uses it to fight crime. Some Batman fans are going to take a look at this out of curiosity, but its strongest audience will be fans of horror and pulp-adventure. The Dave Dorman cover should draw some attention on the stands. (Apple, \$2.25)

Caliber Christmas 1

Christmas books traditionally do well, but this book should do better than average because it has installments of four hot Caliber titles: **Baker Street**, **The Crow**, **Deadworld**, and **The Realm**. Collectors of each of these series will want to add this one-shot to their must-have lists. (Caliber, \$3.95)

Clive Barker's Hellraiser 1

Tapping the Vein has made Clive Barker one of the hottest names in comics horror. Now Epic is set to surpass the popularity of **Tapping the Vein** with their bookshelf-format horror series **Hellraiser**. This series, inspired by Barker's **Hellbound Heart** and the two **Hellraiser** films, explores Barker's most horrifying world of all: the realm of the Cenobites, creatures whose explorations of the infinite worlds of pleasure surpass all boundaries. Clive Barker is even working as a consultant on the book to make sure the stories fit within his vision of the **Hellraiser** world. With hit creators like Bernie Wrightson and Ted McKeever working on this book, how can **Hellraiser** be anything but a hit? (Marvel/Epic, \$4.95)

Critters 50

It's sad to see this title come to an end—but you have to give the folks at Fantagraphics credit. They've come up with an all-star finale that proves they intend to end with a bang, not a whimper. Virtually every popular anthropomorphic-comics creator is represented in this extra-long final issue of **Critters**; if you've ever enjoyed funny animal exploits, you're going to enjoy this issue, no doubt about it. (Fantagraphics, \$4.95)

Dark Horse Presents 36

Aliens Vs. Predator 1 is a major addition to the hot picks list this month—but don't overlook this issue of **Dark Horse Presents**, since it serves as a "prequel" to the series. **Dark Horse Presents 34** featured an **Aliens** story; **Dark Horse Presents 35** featured a **Predator** story; this issue brings them both together in a story that leads into the limited series. According to insiders, many stores ordered significantly fewer copies of this book than they did of **Aliens Vs. Predator 1**, so it will most likely become very scarce very soon after release. (Dark Horse, \$1.95)

Detective 611

According to Jenette Kahn of DC, the Penguin is going to be the focus of major storylines next year; DC has decided that next to the Joker, the Penguin is the most foul of all the Batman foes. This is the second part of a storyline redefining the character and reestablishing him as a serious threat to Gotham City. Fans who don't get it now are going to be clamoring for it later, so beat the rush. (DC, \$1)

Doc Savage 17

After far too many years, the Shadow and Doc Savage join forces at last! But what's the Shadow doing in Doc Savage's Crime College?! The historic value of the Shadow-Doc Savage team-up guarantees this book a short shelf life. (DC, \$2)

Excalibur Special Edition 2

It's a wedding issue—but Mojo is determined that there won't be too much to celebrate! This 48-page bookshelf-format special also features the long-awaited return of the X-Babies (no, we're not foolin'). The real draw of this issue is Arthur Adams, though, because he really did draw this issue. Adams art translates to sizzling sales anyway; Adams and Excalibur just speed up the process. (Marvel, \$4.50)

Baoh



Fantastic Four 337

Marvel proved that they could make their flagship titles extremely popular once again; after all, look what they did with **Amazing Spider-Man**. This month, **Fantastic Four** gets star treatment at the hands of Walt Simonson, who assumes both writer and artist duties. Remember that other 337 that Simonson did—**Thor**—and you can see why you need to grab a copy of this one as soon as you see it. (Marvel, \$1)

CSN HOT PICKS!

Greatest Super-Hero Team-Up Stories Ever Told HC

Greatest Golden Age Stories Ever Told HC

DC's **Greatest Stories** hardcovers have a tradition of rapid sellouts; look for both of these books to continue that tradition. Both of them offer a wide assortment of quality stories featuring some of DC's most popular characters; while neither book has the sales appeal of a **Greatest Batman Stories...** hardcover, they still have hit potential. Incidentally, Batman is one of the featured characters in both books. (DC, \$24.95 each)

Hardcore

Alec Stevens' first graphic novel for Piranha, **Sinners**, was a thought-provoking moral tale of a man's search for happiness. This book goes in the other direction; it's almost amoral in its study of life in the hardcore underground of modern London. Readers who enjoy literature that deals with serious, complex issues will find plenty to interest them in **Hardcore**. (Piranha, \$9.95)

Incredible Hulk 366

Stores across the country are reporting rapid sellouts on the first two installments of the "Countdown" storyline; don't look for any changes in the level of demand for this third issue. Peter David has, in the past few years, transformed **The Hulk** from one of Marvel's most mediocre books to a consistently strong comic. This series gives everyone an excuse to find out just how good David's **Hulk** is. (Marvel, \$1)

Justice League International Special 1 Len Wein, Joe Phillips, and Joe Rubinstein have done a consistently strong job with **Mister Miracle**; now the team gets a chance to

for his work on **Excalibur**, would be the **Maze Agency** artist! Davis heard that Marvel call and moved on to **Excalibur**, making room for Adam Hughes on **Maze Agency**. Davis did find time to do a **Maze Agency** story, though, and it's finally seeing print here in this issue! There is also a three-part storyline featuring art by Joe Staton, Rick Magyar, and the Pander Brothers. The

should be, because the stories are based on the original text stories by award-winning author Keith Laumer. The stories are clever, often funny, and tightly plotted; each deals with the exploits of an intergalactic diplomat who has to deal with whatever problems arise in a very...diplomatic way. (Adventure, \$2.25)

Silver Surfer 34

Starlin takes over as the **Silver Surfer's** writer, and things get cosmic right away! Thanos is back (and on his way to his own series, incidentally), giving the Silver Surfer an adversary worthy of him. The Surfer has been popular already; add some Starlin to the book, though, and mega-hit is on the horizon. (Marvel, \$1)

Superman Archives 1

This made it onto our Hot Picks list last month as well, but delays have moved it back to December. The friendly folks at DC assure us that it's worth the wait—and they weren't wrong when they said that about **Arkham Asylum**, were they? No sensible fan can resist the opportunity to own facsimile reprints of **Superman 1-4** for less than ten bucks an issue... (DC, \$39.95)

What If? 10

What if the Punisher's family hadn't been killed in Central Park? Well, Frank Castle would be a much more cheerful guy...or would he? Not according to Murray, Levins, and McLeod! **What If?** has been an unprecedented success since the book's return in early 1989; look for this issue to be an even stronger seller than usual. (Marvel, \$1.25)

Wilderness Book 1: The Borderland

Tim Truman's **Wilderness** is a project almost unprecedented in comics; "It's the only comic book with a two page bibliography," Truman said, and he's right. This is a true historical saga focusing on the life of Simon Girty. It's also Truman's best work to date; any fan who enjoyed Truman's writing and art on **Hawkworld** will have to have a copy of **Wilderness Book 1**. (4Winds, \$12.95 trade paperback, \$19.95 hardcover, \$59.95 signed and numbered limited edition hardcover)

Wolverine Special Edition 1

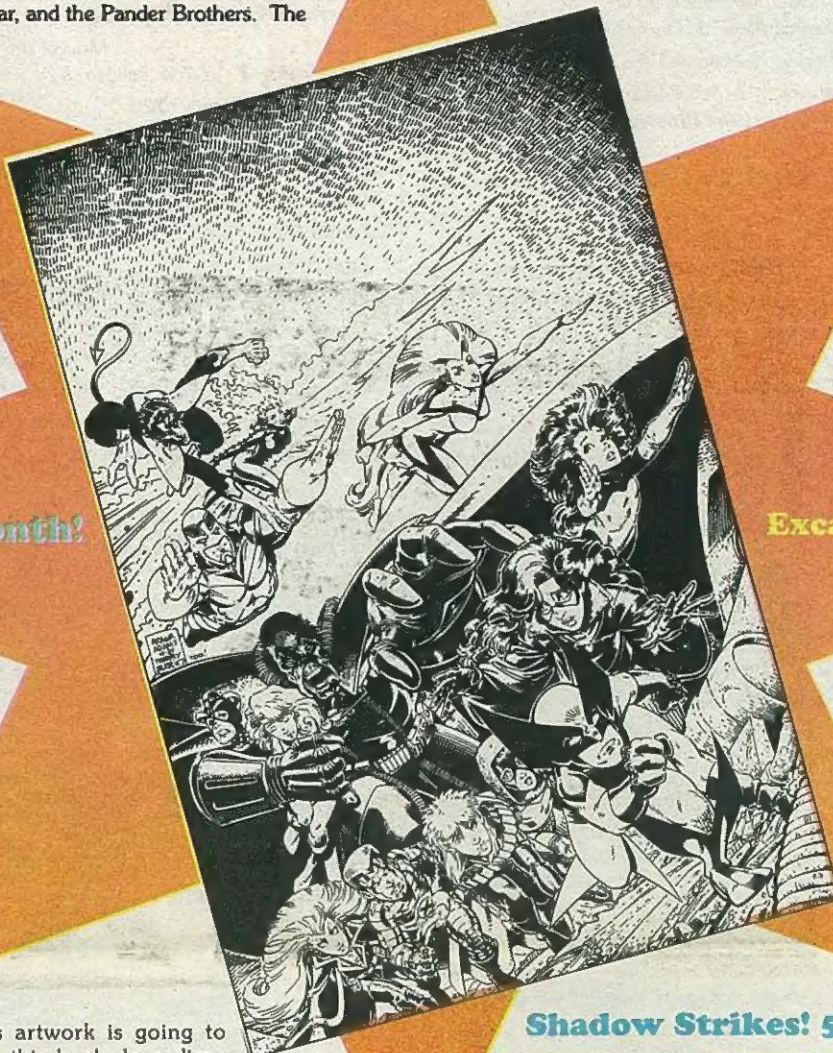
Mike Mignola, fan-favorite artist of **Gotham by Gaslight**, tries his hand at Wolverine in this 48-page special issue. When CSN ran Mignola's cover for this book a few months ago, we were deluged with letters from readers who wanted to know more about this book. This month, Marvel gives them all a chance to see just what happens when Walt Simonson, Mike Mignola, and Bob Wiacek take Wolverine into the Savage Land. (Marvel, \$4.50)

Overlooked Gem of the Month

Epicurus the Sage

Comics fans are high-concept people for the most part; the comics they enjoy the most are generally those whose concept can be easily encapsulated into a few words. **Epicurus the Sage** isn't that simple to describe, but that doesn't mean it isn't good. This graphic novel by William Messner-Loebs and Sam Kieth is the first of a series of humorous looks at the Greek philosophers, presenting their ideas in their own words. It focuses on Epicurus and his protege Alex, who is destined for later fame. Messner-Loebs plays fast and loose with chronology in this series, but that's really the only thing he tampers with. The book will entertain virtually every reader—but the more you know about classic Greek culture and philosophy, the more **Epicurus the Sage** will amuse you. Thankfully, the book never becomes just an extended in-joke. Oh, and Kieth's artwork pulls everything together quite nicely; he has a strong cartoony style that works well on the figures, while his detailed backgrounds keep the book anchored firmly in reality. (Piranha, \$8.95)

Cover of the Month!



Excalibur Special 2

Shadow Strikes! 5

This is the opening installment of the Shadow-Doc Savage crossover mentioned in the discussion of **Doc Savage 17**. Everything said there applies here... (DC, \$1.75)

Open Space 1

Comics and science fiction haven't always worked well together, largely because comics writers tend to give readers sf that's more space opera than well-crafted science fiction. That's not the case in **Open Space**, which is a shared-universe series featuring stories written by a wide range of talented science fiction writers. The premise of the book centers on the development of a faster-than-light drive; from there, each writer is free to follow his own vision within the context of the series. **Open Space** should be very popular with older readers who really want to see sf succeed in the comics format. (Marvel, \$4.95)

Outlanders Collection Volume 1

A trade paperback featuring the hard-to-find first issues of **Outlanders**, plus a 20-page sidebar story never before printed in America? I suspect that this book will become as scarce as the early issues of **Outlanders** have. Don't be surprised if the trade paperback leads to a jump in **Outlanders** comics sales as well! (Dark Horse, \$9.95)

Punisher War Journal 15

The Punisher sells well enough by himself, but when you throw a dash of Spider-Man into the mix, you have the recipe for scorching sales. There's also a dash of Mary Jane and a pinch of neo-Nazi terrorists in here to spice things up. (Marvel, \$1.50)

Retief 1

What a great month for science fiction fans! Here's another well-written sf series—and it



demonstrate their talents with the entire Justice League. This extra-length comic is really just a **Mister Miracle** story grown beyond the limits of a \$1 book, but that's not a bad thing at all. **Justice League Europe** and **Justice League America** readers will have an opportunity to discover just how much better **Mister Miracle** is nowadays than it was in its first few issues. (DC, \$1.50)

Maze Agency Special 1

Mike Barr's **Maze Agency** has been graced with some pretty strong artwork since the series began, but few readers are aware that for a brief time, it appeared that Alan Davis, best known



CSN QUICKLIST

The upcoming comics quicklist is a listing of scheduled titles and the dates that they should arrive in comic shops across the country. That doesn't mean that the books will always be in your shop on the date listed; some publishers ship from different parts of the country, and the farther away the publisher is from your local comic shop, the longer it will take the books to get to you.

Each entry presents the title and number of the book, followed by the release date; if a title doesn't have a scheduled release date, we don't give you a date. After that is the Publisher of the comic and the price. This quicklist presents the titles that are supposed to ship during the rest of December. A complete checklist of titles due in January will appear in CSN 132.

- **A1 3** Atomeka \$5.95
- **Akira 16** 12/28 Marvel \$3.50
- **Alf 26** 12/14 Marvel \$1
- **Alien Legion 15** 12/28 Marvel \$1.50
- **Aliens Vs. Predator 1** Dark Horse \$2.25
- **Alpha Flight 81** 12/14 Marvel \$1.50
- **Amazing Spider-Man 329** 12/14 Marvel \$1
- **Archie 375** 12/21 Archie \$1
- **Avengers 314** 12/21 Marvel \$1
- **Avengers Spotlight 29** 12/14 Marvel \$1
- **Bad Axe 3** Adventure \$2.25
- **Bad Company 16** Quality \$1.50
- **Baoh 1** 12/21 Viz \$2.95
- **Bat 1** Apple \$2.25
- **Bayou Billy 4** 12/21 Archie \$1
- **Betty & Me 181** 12/21 Archie \$1
- **Betty 7 Veronica 28** 12/14 Archie \$1
- **Birthright 2** Fantagraphics \$2
- **Black Bow 1** Burcham \$1.95
- **Body Count 1** Aircel \$2.25
- **Caliber Christmas 1** Caliber \$3.95

- **Captain Harlock 3** Eternity \$1.95
- **Cases of Sherlock Holmes 18** Northstar \$2.25
- **Cerebus 129** Aardvark-Vanaheim \$2
- **Cherry Anthology 1** Last Gasp \$12.95
Reprinting the first four issues of Cherry in one trade paperback-adults only
- **Cheval Noir 5** Dark Horse \$3.50
- **Classic X-Men 44** 12/28 Marvel \$1.25
Reprinting X-Men #138
- **Clive Barker: Illustrator TPB** 12/14 Eclipse \$19.95
- **Clive Barker's Hellraiser 1** 12/14 Marvel \$4.95
- **Cloak & Dagger 10** 12/28 Marvel \$1.50
- **Clock 1** Jolly Roger's \$1.75
- **Collected Gnatrat TPB** Fantagraphics \$9.95
- **Comic Relief 8** Page One Inc. \$2.50
- **Comics Express 2** 12/21 Eclipse \$2.95
- **Comics Journal 134** Fantagraphics \$3.95
- **Complete Pogo Comics TPB 2** 12/21 Eclipse \$7.95
- **Conan 229** 12/21 Marvel \$1
- **Conan Saga 35** 12/28 Marvel \$2.25
- **Cosmic Heroes 11** Eternity \$3.95
- **Cry for Dawn 1** Cry For Dawn \$2.25
- **Crying Freeman 3** 12/28 Viz \$3.50
- **Cyber 7 Book II 3** 12/14 Eclipse \$2
- **Damage Control II 4** 12/28 Marvel \$1
- **Dark Horse Presents 36** Dark Horse \$1.95
- **Deadman: Love After Death 2** 12/14 DC \$3.95

- **Demon Hunter 1** Aircel \$1.95
- **Destroyer 5** 12/21 Marvel \$2.25
- **Detective 611** 12/21 DC \$1
- **Doc Savage 17** 12/14 DC \$1.75
- **Doctor Fate 14** DC \$1.50
- **Doctor Strange 14** 12/28 Marvel \$1.50
- **Doctor Who Monthly 156** Marvel UK \$4.95
- **Dominion 3** 12/28 Eclipse \$2
- **Dracula 1** Eternity \$2.50
- **Dragonforce 13** Aircel \$2.25
- **Dragonlance 16** 12/21 DC \$1.50
- **Dreadstar 53** 12/21 First \$1.95
- **Eagle 23** Apple \$2.25
- **East Meets West 1** Innovation \$2.50
- **El Diablo 6** 12/21 DC \$1.50
- **Electric Undertow 4** 12/14 Marvel \$3.95
- **Elementals 10** 12/14 Comico \$2.50
- **Empire Lanes 1** 12/14 Comico \$2.95
- **Everything's Archie 148** 12/14 Archie \$1
- **Excalibur 19** 12/21 Marvel \$1.50
- **Excalibur Special Edition 2** 12/14 Marvel \$4.50
- **Eye of Mongombo 3** Fantagraphics \$2
- **Fanboys Special 1** New \$2
- **Fantastic Four 337** 12/28 Marvel \$1
- **Firestorm 94** 12/14 DC \$1
- **Fish Police 21** Apple \$2.25
- **Flash 35** 12/14 DC \$1
- **Forgotten Realms 7** 12/21 DC \$1.50
- **Fox Comics 25** Fantagraphics \$2.95
- **French Ticklers 2** Kitchen Sink \$2
- **Ghostbusters II TPB** 12/21



- **GI Joe 97** 12/21 Marvel \$1
- **Gladstone Album 25: Donald Duck** Gladstone \$5.95
- **Greatest Golden Age Stories Ever Told HC** 12/14 DC \$24.95
- **Grimjack 69** 12/14 First \$1.95
- **Groo the Wanderer 62** 12/14 Marvel \$1
- **Halloweiners 2** Mirage \$1.75
- **Hammer of God 3** 12/28 First \$1.95
- **Hardcore GN** Piranha \$9.95

DC'S HOLIDAY GIFT SUGGESTIONS

BATMAN BOOKS

A DEATH IN THE FAMILY
THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS
SON OF THE DEMON
YEAR ONE

GREATEST STORIES SERIES

THE GREATEST BATMAN STORIES EVER TOLD
THE GREATEST JOKER STORIES EVER TOLD
THE GREATEST SUPERMAN STORIES EVER TOLD

STOCKING STUFFERS

BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE
BATMAN MOVIE ADAPTATION
LEX LUTHOR: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY
SUPERMAN: THE EARTH STEALERS

Art by Mike Mignola, after Ole St. Nick by N.C. Wyeth.

KEITH LAUMER'S RETIEF

"One intelligent being should keep another from being eaten alive, whenever he conveniently can."
--Keith Laumer's Retief

Adapted by Bruce Balfour
Illustrated by Darren Goodhart
Alan Larson

Beginning In December

ADVENTURE
A Division Of Malibu Graphics, Inc.

Retief is trademarked and copyright ©1989 Keith Laumer. Rights reserved.

Ultraguy

JOE POWER

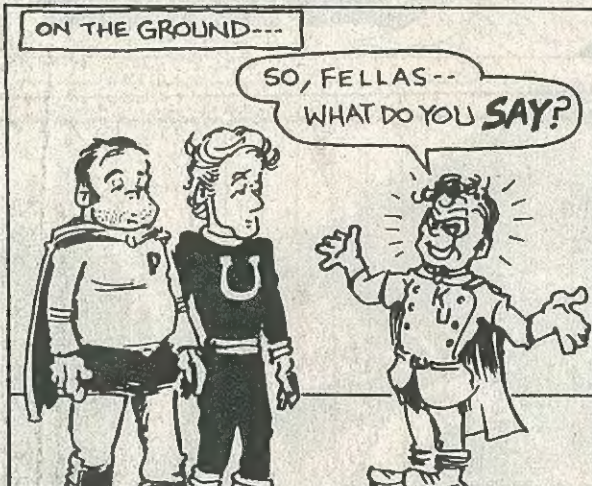
A CRISIS OF FAITH HAS ROBBED THE BOYS OF THEIR SUPERPOWERS AT 20,000 FEET...



SUDDENLY...



ON THE GROUND---



NEVER, NEVER CATCH ANYONE FALLING THAT FAR UNDER THEIR ARMS!!! ARE YOU NUTS?!!



I NEVER REALIZED THAT THIS HERO STUFF WAS SO COMPLICATED...!

